

# IN THE FLOW

*Newsletter of the San Andreas Mutual Water Company* -- December - 2025

To contact Owen Sharp, our manager, call 831-728-3850 and leave a message

## President's Message

By Jay Zucca, SAMWAC Board President

Dear SAMWAC Shareholders and Water Users:

Welcome to the new year. I hope 2026 will be a good year for you and yours. SAMWAC is off to a good start while we continue to face several challenges. So far the rainy season has been good to us. The rain gauge at our house is reading  $7 \frac{3}{4}$  inches for the season with more rain in the immediate forecast.

In case you have missed the last few Newsletters, we are out of compliance with the new State limit on Chromium-6 (Cr-6) in our water. We have completed our Cr-6 compliance plan as required by the State and have gotten a preliminary OK from the County thanks to the team led by Paul Lego and Owen Sharp, which wrote the report. This is all that is required of us for at least the next year.

Our Cr-6 Writ of Mandate petition to have the courts invalidate this regulation is moving forward. The State has responded to our lawyer's brief on the merits of the case -- you can see our lawyer's brief and the State's response at [samwac.org](http://samwac.org). Everything is now in place for the judge to decide the case at the hearing in late January. Even if we win the case, we expect the State to appeal which means that we will need to continue to move forward with compliance. Our compliance plan is in two parts. The first part is to temporarily meet the new MCL (maximum concentration level) with point-of-use (POU) systems. These are stand alone systems that fit under the kitchen sink where most people get their drinking water. The filters need changing about once a year. It will most likely take a few years before we get to the point of installing the systems. The process will begin with an official notification to all shareholders and water users that we do not meet the MCL. The second part is to work toward a system to treat our water at the well site. This will be a much longer process that will require us to conduct an engineering study to determine the best treatment method and the best manufacturer of the equipment. As always, watch these pages for updates. Starting with this newsletter, I will be posting them at [samwac.org](http://samwac.org).

Best regards, Jay Zucca      President, SAMWAC Board of Directors

# Financial Report

Paul Lego, Treasurer, pglego@gmail.com

## **Financial Performance through November 2025**

Our water company's financial performance has continued on a positive trend through November 2025. Operating revenues through November 2025 were \$148,772 versus \$147,165 last year.

Overall expenses through November 2025 were \$87,748 versus \$93,617 last year. We continue to have a better than expected year so far in terms of operating costs, repairs and maintenance. Overall, our water company had a net operating surplus through November 2025 of \$61,024 versus \$53,547 for the same period last year. Reserve income was \$42,492 through November 2025 vs \$14,990 last year. This year's reserve income includes our first PFAS settlement payments.

As of November 30th, 2025, our water company had a total of \$557,631 in its bank accounts including \$51,266 in its Wells Fargo Checking account and \$506,365 in its Schwab Reserve Account. The Schwab Reserve account continues to be primarily invested in Certificates of Deposit (CD's) with a 6-24 month time to maturity and bearing 4-5% in annual interest. This investment strategy is very conservative, but has yielded our water company about \$15,000 a year in each of the last two years.

## Update on Work with Moonshot Missions

As I have mentioned in this column before, our water company has many potentially large and expensive projects in our future, including treatment for both Chromium 6 and Nitrates, as well as a potential emergency intertie with Soquel Creek Water District. In order to help fund these projects, we are looking for both State and Federal Grants and Low Interest Loans.

We have been fortunate enough to qualify for pro-bono (ie FREE) help from a well-regarded, water-related non-profit consulting firm, Moonshot Missions (<https://www.moonshotmissions.org/>), to help us with these projects and their funding. Last week, Owen and I met with Moonshot and a branch of the Environmental Protection Agency that provides pro-bono engineering consulting for water quality projects. This meeting is a first step to coming up with an engineering plan for Chromium 6 and Nitrate Treatment and then applying for grants/loans. Hopefully, the EPA should kick off this engineering project with us in 2026.

## Electronic Bill Payment Please!!

PLEASE everyone, if you can, pay your water bill electronically! Electronic payment eliminates Owen having to deal with paper and the delays of the Post Office. Zelle or Venmo are being used by about half of our customers. The Bill-Pay tool still results in a paper check being mailed, so please use Zelle instead. If you need more details, please send Owen an email. The process has been described in past newsletters and is simple once you do it once! Also, it is possible to have your bill and charts emailed to you, either in addition to the posted paper or electronic only. If you are interested, please email Owen your preference. It has also been discovered that Zelle offers recurring payments that can be scheduled monthly. If your water usage is predictable, you can set a monthly payment and remove the hassle of dealing with water bills. **And be sure to put your account number on your payment !!**

# System Report

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## System Maintenance

This last period had very few incidents and they did not impact the system water service. A few customers are dealing with very slow leaks, which are hard to locate, but still expensive. We are noticing that our "double strength" plastic piping is failing at a rate much higher than standard schedule-40 plastic. We are researching using copper in all future repairs since our goal is "100 year" durability. Then, I will not have to fix it!!

There are new "backflow" rules for those of us with in-house fire sprinkler systems that will be a focus in the new year. We are going to have to update our company policy with these devices to make both the State and the homeowners happy. If that were ever possible.

## Individual Usage Charts

Given that there are a number of customers that were not around in 2020 when the State started the water conservation campaign, I updated the "Goal" numbers on those personal usage charts to reflect a goal of staying close to your 2024 usage. This looks better than a bunch of zeros since there was no usage in 2020.

## Distribution System Water Quality

"Distribution System Water," that is, the water that comes out of your tap, comes from blending the controlled production of our two wells. To provide an ongoing source of quality drinking water, monthly water quality samples are drawn and tested from throughout our community system. This is how we ensure you continue to enjoy safe and pleasant tasting drinking water. Following are recent test results:

### Bacteriological Examination

Nov 2025	Coliforms: Absent	E.coli: Absent	Dec 2025	Coliforms: Absent	E.coli: Absent
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### General Physical (GP) Examination at Delivery Point

	pH	Nitrate (as N)	Turbidity	Color	Odor
Nov 2025	7.8	7.8	0.10	3	<1
Dec 2025	7.5	7.8	0.15	10	<1

The County/State have changed our source reporting requirements from Quarterly to Yearly due to the stability of our sources. However, we are testing nitrates monthly on all wells.

### General Physical (GP) of Each Source (2025)

2025	pH	Nitrate (Nov)	Nitrate (Dec)	Turbidity	Color	Odor
Well-1	7.5	7.6	8.0	0.7	none	<1
Well-3	7.4	7.1	6.5	0.15	none	<1

# Conservation Report

We are continuing this familiar chart. The reference year for conservation is 2020. This period we came in under our goal once again. We obviously had a sizable reduction in water usage, probably because of the rains that are happening earlier this year. The early rains of Sep/Oct did not continue until late December.

The goal, set by the State because of drought concerns, is "15% reduction of 2020 usage," which is the *Goal* "diamond" line. Our *Actual* from last year are the pyramid points. This year, our *Actual* usage points are the large circles. While the State has said the "drought is over" several times in different ways, I bet it is back very soon since this is the New Normal. We are adapting well.

Please examine your individual usage tables and see how you compare to last year.

## Conservation Goals

